



# The Cleveland Museum of Art

November 24, 1993

Contact: Greg Donley

## THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART IMPORTS FINE MEXICAN FILM

### *Before Like Water for Chocolate: Classic Mexican Cinema*

Sun, 3:30 pm & Wed, 7:30 pm (unless noted), December 8-22, 1993

Admission \$4, CMA and Cleveland Cinematheque members \$3.

Since 1990, the UCLA Film and Television Archive has been bolstering the international reputation of south-of-the-border film with its Mexican Cinema Project. The Cleveland Museum of Art, which in 1991 featured the work of Mexican director Arturo Ripstein, offers a look at the final phase of the UCLA endeavor in the series, *Before Like Water for Chocolate: Classic Mexican Cinema*. In a special arrangement to afford Cleveland audiences the opportunity to view the largest possible portion of the project, these films are presented as a joint venture between The Cleveland Museum of Art and the Cleveland Cinematheque, with each venue showing half of the films. Please call 421-7450 for the complete schedule of screenings at the Cinematheque.

After a protracted infancy complicated by social turmoil and competition from nearby Hollywood, the Mexican film industry suddenly flowered with the release in 1919 of *The Gray Automobile*, a true story about a gang of "Robin Hood" bandits during the Mexican Revolution, which is one of very few Mexican silent films that survive today. After the conversion to sound, there was a second wave of quality films in Mexico, most exploring familiar Mexican themes — the Revolution, heroes and villains of the Revolution, and socio-economic causes and effects of the Revolution, plus the occasional love story, set against the backdrop of the Revolution. Selections showing at the Museum include *The Wave*, photographed by the renowned American photographer, Paul Strand; *Woman of the Port*, a powerful 1933 melodrama about the human cost of economic hardship; *¡Vámanos con Pancho Villa!*, an unsympathetic portrait of the revolutionary hero directed by Fernando de Fuentes, one of the great figures in early Mexican cinema; and two acclaimed films from the 1940s by another great figure, Emilio Fernandez, *Wildflower* and *Woman in Love*, both portraying lovers trying to live through the Revolution. In all, this series offers a rare opportunity to sample the four formative decades of the the largest film industry in Latin America.

Film details next page

Before *Like Water for Chocolate*:

Classic Mexican Cinema, 1919-1947

Wed, 7:30 pm; Sun, 3:30 pm (unless noted)

\$4; \$3 CMA and Cleveland Cinematheque members.

Four decades of highlights from the largest film industry in Latin America. All in b&w, in Spanish with English subtitles or translation. Six more films in this series (some are double bills) play Sunday nights this month at the Cleveland Cinematheque, the Cleveland Institute of Art, 11141 East Blvd. Call 421-7450 for Cinematheque titles and times.

Wed/Dec 8, 7:30 pm *The Grey Automobile*, 1919, 111 min. Directed by Enrique Rosas. One of Mexico's few surviving silent films tells the true story of bandits who robbed the rich during the Mexican Revolution.

Sun/Dec 12, 3:30 pm *¡Vamonos con Pancho Villa!*, 1935, 92 min. Directed by Fernando de Fuentes. Unappreciated until the 60s, this tale of rancheros in Pancho Villa's army paints an unflattering portrait of the revolutionary hero.

Wed/Dec 15, 7 pm *The Wave*, 1935, b&w, 69 min. Directed by Fred Zinnemann and Emilio Gomez Muriel. A revolt in a Mexican fishing village, strikingly photographed by Paul Strand.

*Woman of the Port*, 1933, 76 min. Directed by Arcady Boytler. Potent melodrama about a virtuous woman driven to prostitution by poverty.

Sun/Dec 19, 3:30 pm *Wildflower*, 1943, b&w, 94 min. Directed by Emilio Fernandez, with Dolores del Rio and Pedro Armendariz. During the Mexican Revolution, a wealthy man disowns his son for marrying a peasant.

Wed/Dec 22, 7:30 pm *Woman in Love*, 1946, b&w, 99 min. Directed by Emilio Fernandez, with Pedro Armendariz and Maria Felix. A revolutionary general falls for a rich man's daughter in this sweeping saga of political idealism and romantic passion.

Classic Mexican Cinema is a touring exhibition organized by the UCLA Film and Television Archive, in collaboration with IMCINE.

# # #